

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, July 18, 2019 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Ake, Mr. Strohm and Mr. Gehret were present, constituting a quorum in accordance with AWA Bylaws. All AWA Board of Directors meetings are conducted in accordance with the PA Sunshine Laws. Also in attendance were Consulting Engineer, Jim Balliet, Solicitor, David Consiglio, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser and Kathy Gabella.

Mr. Neugebauer thanked Mayor Pacifico for appointing Barbara Kooman to the board. He then explained that Mrs. Kooman was out of town and could not attend today's meeting.

Absent: Barbara Kooman

Guest: Joe Fedeli of Fiore, Fedeli, Snyder & Carothers, Mayor Pacifico & Mark Geis

Public Comment:

None

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Ake moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting. Mr. Strohm seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Joe Fedeli gave a précis of the 2018 Audit report. Mr. Gehret moved to accept the 2018 Audit Report as presented. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Unfinished Business:

1. Guaranteed Energy Savings Project – the next step of the process is to enter into a Project Development Agreement. This is for the Authority to enter into the development phase of the project which includes the engineering of the anaerobic digesters. Two (2) Board members toured the Winchester facility last week. They both felt the tour was very informational.

ESG's Investment Grade Audit fee is \$825,000.00 to move the process through permit grade design. This will only be paid if the Authority does not go through with the project; otherwise it will be rolled into the total project cost. This will allow the Authority to move forward with the financing entities and move forward with this project.

The question was asked what the cons would be to this project. The additional process will add a level of operational complexity which would require additional training for staff. While this is not necessarily a down side it is something that needs to be planned.

There could be competition for the high strength waste that may drive down the price. ESG would be taking the risk to maintain the contracts and continue to bring in the waste so ESG will be able to guarantee the revenue to offset the debt service associated with the project.

Another concern is how it will impact the current operations. The Authority runs a very efficient plant which is how it was possible to bring the Leachate in approximately two years ago with little to no operational expense. There are questions how this waste stream would impact the existing waste stream and will they be viable together. There will be opportunities to tweak the process. During the next phase ESG and their engineers will work with the Authority to make certain the current process is not negatively impacted.

2. Norfolk Southern License Agreement – this is another license agreement for the sewer lining project. It is for a crossing that goes from under the Home Nursing Agency building next to Lumax Lighting across the rail yard and flows into the East CSO interceptor boxes.
3. River Road/Wopsononock Bore Projects – The River Road bore by DelGrosso Amusement Park is complete. The bore contractor is now at Wopsononock Avenue and Juniata Gap Road boring under Juniata Gap Road and should have it completed sometime next week. This project has needed to be done for several years.
4. Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility Administrative Office Building Roof – since there was infiltration from the exterior brick a pitched roof with an overhang has been installed. This project should be completed soon.
5. Angels Coal Trust Agreement of Sale – This was a requirement for the latest grant application for DCED. Attorney Consiglio was instrumental in drafting the Agreement of Sale and getting the commitment from the trustee.

Staff met with DCNR representatives yesterday; it was felt the meeting went very well. Discussion was held concerning the recreational aspect of the grant. Closing for this property will not take place before January 2020.

6. Bellmeade Civic Association Water Distribution System Acquisition – Staff is actively working with the Bellmeade Civic Association. The Civic Association is assuring the Authority of the easements for the areas not in public right-of-way. Staff is addressing the conditions that would need to be worked through before the Authority would acquire the system. A proposal needs to be given to the Civic Association and if everything goes smoothly there would be an October 1 transition.

Requisition Approval:

Mr. Neugebauer asked Mrs. DeRubeis for the Financial Report and the Requisitions/Authorizations. Mrs. DeRubeis gave her report and then asked for approval of the following requisitions.

Requisition #105 Water Division Construction Fund totaling - \$871.39

Requisition #18 Water Project Construction Fund totaling - \$4,870.45

Requisitions #12 & 13 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling – \$240,000.39

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the requisitions. Mr. Gehret seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Mrs. DeRubeis added the Sewer Bonds closed July 11, 2019.

New Business:

None

Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards

1. Resolution #19-07-912 to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute the License Agreement between Norfolk Southern and the Altoona Water Authority.
2. Resolution #19-07-913 to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute the Agreement of Sale between Gerald T. Neugebauer, trustee of Angel Coal Trust and the Altoona Water Authority
3. Resolution #19-07-914 to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute the Project Development Agreement between Energy Systems Group, LLC and the Altoona Water Authority.

Mr. Ake moved to approve all of the above resolutions. Mr. Strohm seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Other Business:

None

Media Questions

The board and staff addressed questions from Bill Kibler of the Altoona Mirror.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was called at 10:15 for legal issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: Aug. 22, 2019



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg